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ABSTRACT

Project ABLE is a series of demonstration educational programs initiated in 1961 for the purpose of identifying and encouraging potential abilities among pupils from culturally deprived groups and low socioeconomic backgrounds. The word ABLE was chosen to indicate a belief that, given adequate resources, schools are ABLE to devise educational procedures which insure equality of educational opportunity for all pupils including those identified as "disadvantaged." In order to participate and receive financial support from state funds, school systems in Cooperation with the Project Unit of the Division of Pupil Personnel Services developed demonstration programs to meet identified educational needs at the local level. A wide variety of techniques with observable positive results were utilized by the participating school districts. (Author)

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Descriptive Summaries of Project ABLE Programs 1968-69

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UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK/THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
DIVISION OF PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICE

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The University of the State of New York
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Division of Pupil Personnel Services
Albany, New York 12224

Project ABLE

Descriptive Summaries of Project ABLE Programs

1968-69

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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FOREWORD

Project ABLE, a series of demonstration educational programs, was initiated in 1961 for the purpose of "identifying and encouraging potential abilities among pupils from culturally deprived groups and from low socioeconomic backgrounds."

The word "ABLE" was chosen to indicate a belief that, given adequate resources, schools are "ABLE" to devise educational procedures which insure equality of educational opportunity for all pupils including those pupils identified as "disadvantaged." In order to participate and receive financial support from State funds, school systems, in cooperation with the Project Unit of the Division of Pupil Personnel Services, devise demonstration programs to meet identified educational needs at the local level. As this publication indicates, a wide variety of techniques have been effectively utilized.

Perhaps, if you are searching for new approaches of meeting the needs of disadvantaged pupils, in the descriptive summaries which follow, you may find a relevant idea for your own school district.

Philip B. Langworthy
Associate Commissioner for Instructional Services

Location: Akron Central School, 47 Bloomingdale Ave., Akron, N.Y. 14001
Title of Local Project: "Operation Uplift"
Grade Levels Involved: 5, 6, 7, 8
Total No. of Students Involved: 46
Total Cost of Project: $2,368.06
Cost Per Student: $25.73

Major Emphases of Local Project Activities:

1. After-school remedial program for selected underachieving students, many of whom are American Indians.

2. Planned conferences between the school social worker and the families of children in the project in order to minimize conditions which discourage a pupil's academic achievement.

3. Extensive individual psychological testing of project students in order to study a student's academic potential.

4. Regular meeting of parents' group to plan extracurricular activities for project pupils.

Observable Results:

1. Improved attendance of project pupils.

2. Increased parental involvement in school activities.

3. Extensive testing of a limited sample of the pupils involved in the project indicated a noticeable improvement in basic school skills.

For Further Information Contact:

Director of Guidance
Akron Central School
Akron, New York 14001

Telephone: (716) 542-5416

Location: Amsterdam City School District, Amsterdam, N.Y. 12010
Title of Local Project: "Project ABLE"
Grade Levels Involved: K, 1, 2, 3, 4
Total No. of Students Involved: 139
Total Cost of Project: $57,840
Cost Per Student: $416.11

Note: Two of 12 neighborhood elementary schools in the Enlarged Amsterdam City School District were designated Project ABLE schools. These schools serve largely urban disadvantaged populations.

Major Emphases of Local Project Activities:

1. Enriched kindergarten program through the provision of opportunities for dramatization of stories and current events.

2. Manipulation of materials and careful verbal descriptions of objects by pupil stressed.

3. Health practices such as nutrition and personal care are part of the planned program of experiences for the project pupils.

4. Frequent field trips, with parental participation, to police and fire departments, and places of business in the neighborhood in order to bring to pupils a sense of community.

5. Consultant services for teachers to assist them in reading, library use, and elementary guidance.

6. Provision of teacher aides for teachers.

7. A planned communication program with parents utilizing individual and small group meetings.

Observable Results:

1. Improved academic achievement of project pupils.

2. Improved parental support of school activities.

3. Improved attendance and personal appearance as well as improved social behavior of pupils involved in the project.

4. A general curriculum revision for all elementary school pupils based on Project ABLE experiences.

For Further Information Contact:

Assistant Superintendent for
Pupil Personnel Services
41 Division Street
Amsterdam, N.Y. 12010

Telephone: (518) 843-3180,
Ext. 227

Location: Central School District #4, Dunton Ave., East Patchogue, N.Y. 11772

Title of Local Project: "Challenge"
Grade Levels Involved: 6, 7, 8
Total No. of Students Involved: 158
Total Cost of Project: $47,812
Cost Per Student: $302.60

Major Emphases of Local Project Activities:

1. The development of locally relevant and meaningful educational activities and materials for pupils identified as "slow learners" or "underachievers."

2. An orientation to the world of work for students through use of guest speakers; frequently people who work and live in the community.

3. Individualization of reading instruction through the use of adult tutors who work with pupils on a regularly scheduled basis.

4. Extensive home-school contact through the use of a bilingual part-time school social worker who talks to parents and helps them understand various school activities.

Observable Results:

1. Teachers report improved attitudes of pupils and parents toward school activities.

2. Improved attendance of students involved in project activities.

3. Fewer disciplinary problems among Project ABLE pupils.

For Further Information Contact:

Principal
Bellport Middle School
Bellport, New York 11713

Telephone: (516) 286-1400

Location: Goshen Central School, Lincoln Ave., Goshen, N.Y. 10924
Title of Local Project: "Intensive Studies Program"
Grade Levels Involved: 7, 8
Total No. of Students Involved: 85
Total Cost of Project: $25,894
Cost Per Student: $304.63

Major Emphases of Local Project Activities:

1. Identification of underachieving 7th and 8th grade students of at least normal ability and intelligence.

2. Remedial instruction attempted by grouping underachieving students into small groups of pupils who meet regularly with Project ABLE teachers.

Observable Results:

1. As a result of Project ABLE activities, procedures for the academic evaluation of all elementary school students are now more thorough.

2. Attendance of students in the project has improved, as well as their appearance.

3. Disciplinary offenses of Project ABLE pupils have significantly decreased.

4. The number of grade failures has decreased significantly.

5. Teachers report peer relationships have improved. Negative attitudes have been replaced by more positive attitudes of pupils toward one another.

6. Teachers have noted improved study habits. Homework is completed more consistently and in an improved manner under the general direction of the Project ABLE teachers.

For Further Information Contact:

Assistant Principal
Goshen Central School
McNally Street
Goshen, N.Y. 10924

Location: Great Neck Public Schools, 345 Lakeville Road, Great Neck, N.Y. 11020
Title of Local Project: "Project ABLE"
Grade Levels Involved: 7 through 12
Total No. of Students Involved: 67
Total Cost of Project: $28,634.56
Cost Per Student: $427.38

Major Emphases of Local Project Activities:

1. Provision of individual and small group instruction by full-time counselor-teachers, chosen because of their demonstrated ability to teach and relate easily to students. Part-time remedial specialists are employed to work with students on individual and small group bases.

2. Individual and group counseling are provided for underachieving students.

3. Planned field trips are designed to increase a student's awareness of social and cultural backgrounds as well as an orientation to the world of work.

4. School social worker contacts with the parents of Project ABLE children are designed to increase home-school communication and cooperation.

5. Routine use of case conference techniques regarding pupil problems and progress are utilized.

6. Regular staff meetings for continuous evaluation of program for inservice education.

7. Regular briefing of school principals and pupil personnel members regarding the program, its progress, and its outcomes.

Observable Results:

1. Improved attendance in 3 of the 4 project schools.

2. Improved punctuality in 3 of the 4 project schools.

3. Improved classroom participation reported by classroom teachers.

4. Some gains in achievement as measured by objective tests.

For Further Information Contact:

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Great Neck Public Schools
345 Lakeville Road
Great Neck, N.Y. 11020

Telephone: (516) 482-8650

Location: Greenburgh Central School District #7, Warburg Campus, Hartsdale, N.Y. 10530
Title of Local Project: "Project ABLE"
Grade Levels Involved: 8, 9, 10
Total No. of Students Involved: 183
Total Cost of Project: $152,364.55
Cost Per Student: $832.59

Major Emphases of Local Project Activities:

1. Provision of intensive individualized instruction through the use of team teaching, flexible scheduling, and extensive tutoring services for selected students.
2. Inservice education of school personnel concerning the needs of disadvantaged underachieving students.
3. Expanded pupil personnel services in order to help pupils deal with various incapacitating social, emotional, and cognitive factors.
4. Increased home-school communication in order to build a sense of cooperation with parents, rather than one of distance and rejection.
5. Utilization of revised teaching procedures in order to have the student learn the "traditional skills."
6. Use of calculators, tape recorders, and programmed instructional materials whenever possible.
7. Continuous curriculum revision which attempts to update and present useful personal, social, and academic concepts in a manner which increases the pupils' comprehension of them.

Observable Results:

1. The number of 9th grade students scoring "below minimum competence," as measured by the New York State Pupil Evaluation Tests, has decreased. Project ABLE activities may be contributing to this decline, but the complexity of the situation prohibits delimiting project activities as a casual factor.
2. Intensive student opinion survey reveals that the changed teaching procedures initiated through Project ABLE were generally well received by students.
3. Teachers report a growing positive participation in classroom activities of many Project ABLE pupils.
4. As a partial result of Project ABLE activities, tracking of students has been replaced by alternative techniques to individualized instruction.

For Further Information Contact:

Project ABLE Coordinator
Greenburgh Central School
Warburg Campus
Hartsdale, N.Y. 10530

Telephone: (914) 761-6000

Location: Hempstead School District #1, 185 Peninsula Boulevard, Hempstead, N.Y. 11550
Title of Local Project: "Project ABLE"
Grade Levels Involved: 1 through 11
Total No. of Students Involved: 670
Total Cost of Project: $76,177.01
Cost Per Student: $113.69

Major Emphases of Local Project Activities:

1. An enriched elementary level instructional program supplemented by teacher aides, some bilingual, who work with individual and small groups of pupils.

2. Provision of extensive school health services to all elementary school children.

3. Reduction of class size to less than 30 students by the use of additional teachers.

4. Planned parental visits to their child's school and classroom.

5. Field trips which highlight the positive nature and helpful attitude of the world around the pupil.

Observable Results:

1. Although analysis of achievement data is not complete, the enriched elementary level instructional program was subjectively evaluated as resulting in increased pupil achievement, interest, and enthusiasm for the school.

2. Increased health services have resulted in a reduction in health problems and improved pupil appearance.

3. Improved self-image of pupils and positive attitudes toward school were reported.

4. Planned parental visitation to their child's classroom during the school day has been successful in encouraging favorable parental attitudes to the school.

For Further Information Contact:

Coordinator of State and Federal Projects
Hempstead Public Schools
185 Peninsula Boulevard
Hempstead, N. Y. 11550

Telephone: (516) 481-7800

Location: Ithaca City School District, 400 Lake Ave., Ithaca, N.Y. 14850
Title of Local Project: "Project ABLE"
Grade Levels Involved: K through 12
Total No. of Students: 800
Total Cost of Project: $38,587
Cost Per Student: $48.23

Major Emphases of Local Project Activities:

1. Community involvement in the schools through the use of volunteer tutors and teacher-aides from the neighborhood.

2. Structured teacher-parent conferences in which working together toward improving the working climate for children is stressed.

3. Project services especially concentrated at the kindergarten through 2nd grade level. To be followup for Head Start and experimental Pre-K.

4. Ongoing experimentation with the "new careers" concept through the use of community paraprofessionals, teacher-aides, in the schools on a continuing basis.

5. Inservice education for teacher-aides, the majority of whom live in the school community in which they are employed.

Observable Results:

1. Teachers report that teacher-aides increase the amount of time teachers may spend with individual pupils and small groups. Teacher-aides also provide an effective communication link with the people in the neighborhood.

2. Although community-school relationships have improved and the school has become more of a community center, the programs made possible by State and Federal aid have not reversed the general downward trend in achievement testing results, except for individual instances where intensive tutoring activities were a success.

3. Positive attitude changes in students as a result of individual person to person contact were generally reported by teachers, teacher-aides, and tutors.

For Further Information Contact:

Coordinator of Volunteers and Community Involvement
Ithaca City School District
400 Lake Street
Ithaca, New York 14850

Telephone: (607) 274-2101

Location: Jamestown Public Schools, 200 E. 4th St., Jamestown, N.Y. 14701
Title of Local Project: "Love School Project"
Grade Levels Involved: 1, 2, 3
Total No. of Students Involved: 42
Total Cost of Project: $6,265.13
Cost Per Student: $149.17

Major Emphases of Local Project Activities:

1. An extended 3-year program for selected 1st graders to prepare them for successful entrance into a regular 3rd grade classroom.

2. Limitation of ABLE class size to 17 students.

3. Provision of teacher-aide services.

4. Concentration on the development of verbal skills, reading readiness, and ability.

5. Class time for discussion of problems, worries, and concerns of the children is part of the teaching classroom guidance approach.

Observable Results:

1. Of the 1st group of 17 children who were given a 3-year preparation period before being placed in a regular 3rd grade, 4 were placed in a regular classroom ahead of schedule, 10 as scheduled, and 3 have transferred.

2. The concept of an extended preparation period before entering 3rd grade has been well received by the teaching staff and has been utilized by another school in the district.

3. Attendance of project pupils during the school year 1968-69 showed improvement when compared to the previous school year.

For Further Information Contact:

Principal
Love School
8th & Pine Streets
Jamestown, N.Y. 14701

Telephone: (716) 487-1101

Location: Kingston City Schools, 67 Wall St., Kingston, N.Y. 12401
Title of Local Project: "Project ABLE"
Grade Levels Involved: K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Total No. of Students Involved: 467
Total Cost of Project: $33,308.31
Cost Per Student: $70.72

Note: The Kingston City School District designated one of its elementary schools a Project ABLE school in an attempt to demonstrate that a total school effort to work with disadvantaged children can result in a successful learning experience for all children in the school.

Major Emphases of Local Project Activities:

1. Provision of extensive educational materials for teachers' use in order to increase pupil learning effectiveness and efficiency.

2. Provision of elementary school guidance and counseling services.

3. Regularly planned case conferences in which pupil problems are discussed and tentative educational approaches are planned cooperatively by the instructional, pupil personnel, and administrative services staff.

4. Provision of a "Crisis Teacher." This service makes possible immediate efforts to discuss disruptive behavior with the pupil involved under calm, quiet, circumstances removed from the scene of the disturbance.

Observable Results:

1. General rise in report card grades.

2. Rise in standardized achievement results.

3. Attendance at afternoon and evening activities at school often grew to the point where more pupils, than could be effectively accommodated, attended. This, in turn, caused an expansion of the program.

4. The remedial reading program developed in the Project ABLE school has been expanded to include 2 full-time teachers.

5. The case conference approach to working with children in cooperation with outside social service agencies has spread to 3 other schools in the district.

For Further Information Contact:

Project ABLE Coordinator
John F. Kennedy School
Gross Street
Kingston, N.Y. 12401

Telephone: (914) 331-3174

Location: Long Beach Central School, West Park Ave., Long Beach, N.Y.
Title of Local Project: "Project ABLE" 11561
Grade Levels Involved: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Total No. of Students Involved: 92
Total Cost of Project: $16,950.91
Cost Per Student: $184.25

Major Emphases of Local Project Activities:

1. Early identification of underachieving pupils at the 1st grade level.

2. Enriched instructional services for self-contained ABLE classes.

3. Provision of individual and group guidance and counseling services for Project ABLE children.

4. Field trips to cultural, community, and educational centers.

5. Participation in organized recreational activities designed to enhance interpersonal relationships among students.

Observable Results:

1. Standardized testing reveals improved achievement among students.

2. Project activities have stimulated parental attendance at evening meetings through the use of audiovisual presentations which show children on trips or engaged in various project activities.

3. Pupils seem very receptive to individual and group counseling procedures. Discussion about getting along with peers is a major topic. A combination record and slide presentation on fighting was developed by an upper grade ABLE class.

For Further Information Contact:

Guidance Counselor
Long Beach Central School
West Park Avenue
Long Beach, N. Y. 11561

Telephone: (516) 431-0361

Location: Middle Island Central School District #12, Middle Island, N.Y. 11953
Title of Local Project: "Project ABLE"
Grade Levels Involved: 3, 4, 5
Total No. of Students Involved: 142
Total Cost of Project: $84,711.78
Cost Per Student: $596.56

Major Emphases of Local Project Activities:

1. Instructional, remedial, and cultural enrichment activities for the Project ABLE pupils.

2. Inservice education for school personnel to sensitize them to the needs of disadvantaged children.

3. Expanded guidance and counseling services designed to enhance the self-concept of pupils.

Observable Results:

1. Pretesting and posttesting revealed that while there was growth in vocabulary development, there was significant growth (at the .01 level) in reading comprehension. These results are in a district where children often are frequently 1 to 3 years retarded in reading.

2. Increased communication between the school and parents of project children.

3. A survey of parents, regarding their estimate of their child's respect for teachers and enjoyment of school activities revealed that parents perceive their children reacting very favorably to teachers and school activities.

4. Anecdotal records indicate general improvement in the conduct of project pupils, though these changes cannot be causedly related to project activities.

For Further Information Contact:

Coordinator of Federal and State Programs
Middle Island Central School District #12
Middle Island, N.Y. 11953

Telephone: (516) 924-6400

Location: Mineola Public Schools, U.F.S.D. #10, 200 Emory Road, Mineola, N.Y. 11501

Title of Local Project: "Project ABLE"
Grade Levels Involved: K through 10
Total No. of Students Involved: 148
Total Cost of Project: $48,312.49
Cost Per Student: $326.43

Note: Project ABLE in the Mineola Public Schools has utilized differing programs at the elementary, junior high, and senior high level. The project activities will, therefore, be described individually by level.

Major Emphases of Local Project Activities:

ELEMENTARY LEVEL

At the elementary school level, Project ABLE acts as an adjunct to the regular school program. Children from grades K through 6 of potential ability but not achieving, are provided extra services designed to improve their self-image and scholastic achievement.

Project ABLE activities emphasized:

1. Increased home-school communication through the use of school social worker.

2. Inservice sensitivity workshops for teachers who have Project ABLE children in their classes.

3. Remedial reading program for Project ABLE pupils.

4. Field trips of an educational, social, and cultural nature, all of which are designed to provide an opportunity for teachers and pupils to interact under informal circumstances.

5. Intensive health services provided by school nurse to insure adequate provision of health and dental care.

6. After school center provided for pupils at the elementary school level. Pupils may use school facilities and work with teachers.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL

At the junior high school level, a 7th and 8th grade Project ABLE class was formed by establishing classes of underachieving students of at least average intelligence.

Project ABLE activities emphasized:

1. Team teaching encourages extensive contact between the pupils and the teachers and among the teachers and pupils respectively.

Mineola (cont'd.)

2. Remedial reading, group guidance, and counseling programmed in place of study halls.

3. Planned field trips of an educational and cultural nature.

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL

In the senior high school, the Project ABLE activities emphasized:

1. Team teaching by two teachers, each assigned two major academic areas.

2. Extended teacher-pupil interest can be made possible by teacher preparation period which coincides with the project pupil's scheduled study hall.

3. Group guidance and remedial instruction regularly scheduled.

Observed Results:

1. Subjective evaluation indicates a growing relationship between ability and achievement in 90 percent of the project pupils.

2. The pupils selected for the project have responded positively to the opportunity for individual and group counseling.

3. The elementary level "after-school center" has been successful in encouraging reading and library activity among project pupils. In addition, subjective data indicates improved self-concepts and attitudes.

4. Improved attendance and punctuality noted among project pupils.

5. Improved home-school relations made possible by personal contacts between project coordinator and parents.

For Further Information Contact:

Assistant Superintendent
for Personnel
Mineola Public Schools
200 Emory Road
Mineola, N. Y. 11501

Telephone: (516) 747-6700

Location: Monroe-Woodbury Central School, Route #32, Central Valley, N.Y. 10917

Title of Local Project: "Flame"
Grade Levels Involved: 6, 7, 8, 9
Total No. of Students Involved: 63
Total Cost of Project: $47,955.21
Cost Per Student: $707.95

Major Emphases of Local Project Activities:

1. Development of a relevant curriculum for homogeneously grouped pupils who have been generally underachieving for a variety of reasons.

2. Individual and group counseling available to all project pupils.

3. Individual remedial instruction in reading.

Observable Results:

1. A review of the attendance records indicates improved attendance and punctuality among project pupils.

2. Improved achievement was noted among project pupils.

For Further Information Contact:

Coordinator of Special Services
Monroe-Woodbury Central School
1-3 Stage Road
Monroe, N. Y. 10950

Telephone: (914) 928-2261

Location: Newburgh City School District, 98 Grand St., Newburgh, N.Y. 12550

Title of Local Project: "Operation Springboard II"
Grade Levels Involved: 7, 8, 9
Total No. of Students Involved: 221
Total Cost of Project: $36,894
Cost Per Student: $121.65

Major Emphases of Local Project Activities:

1. Special program of instruction in basic skills in addition to regularly scheduled classes for pupils who are deficient in basic school skills. Intensive individual and small group instruction is given by teachers who have demonstrated an ability to work with underachieving students.

2. Inservice education of project personnel to increase their effectiveness in working with disadvantaged students.

Observable Results:

1. Improved reading achievement and basic skills noted in 74 percent of the pupils involved in the project.

2. Improved pupil attitude toward basic skills and project staff which did not generalize to the total school staff or program.

3. Community support became evident during project as a result of communication with parents regarding project activities.

4. Some improvement noted in general school grades for project pupils.

For Further Information Contact:

Project ABLE Coordinator
North Junior High School
Newburgh, N. Y. 12550

Telephone: (914) 561-3223

Location: New York City School District, 141 Livingston St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201

Title of Local Project: "Project ABLE"
Grade Levels Involved: K through 12
Total No. of Students Involved: 413
Total Cost of Project: $186,667.71
Cost Per Student: $451.97

Note: New York City Project ABLE funds have aided in the creation of two Pupil Personnel Services Teams. Each of the teams is comprised of the various pupil personnel specialists, a paraprofessional, and a part-time psychiatrist. Each team has as one of its immediate objectives, the provision of assistance to pupils who are involved, or about to become involved, in suspension proceedings. The team, in its attempt to help pupils, works with parents, administrators, teachers, as needed. The schools involved in the project activities each receive 1 day of team service each week.

Major Emphases of Local Project Activities:

The Pupil Personnel Team effort includes:

1. Intensive investigation of the circumstances surrounding the pupil's actual or potential suspension from school.

2. Case conferences in which the team plus other school personnel and parents may be invited to examine the pupil's situation and to suggest other possible alternatives to suspension.

3. Referral to community agencies in those cases where a school-agency cooperative effort may help alleviate severe personal or interpersonal difficulties.

Observable Results:

1. In District #7, New York City, 5-day suspensions have decreased in a 3-year period from 227 to 64 per year.

   Other schools in the district not involved in the ABLE Project have not shown similar decline in the number of suspensions.

   In District #7, a superintendent's conference often resulted in exemption from instruction (suspension). Over a 3-year period, a decline in superintendent's conferences from 27 to none was recorded in the project schools.

2. In District #1, New York City, in which a pupil personnel team also offered consultative services, no children referred to the teams were suspended.

New York City (cont'd.)

The pupil personnel team in District #1, in addition, tried to meet with school staff regularly in an attempt to help the total school staff deal with pupils before problems became serious. An evaluation of their efforts reveals that:

a. The attendance and punctuality of problem pupils improved after remedial educational procedures were instituted.

b. Achievement, promotions, and grades of pupils in the project schools improved.

c. Pre- and posttesting with projective instruments of pupils who received pupil personnel team attention indicated improved attitudes to authority figures such as parents and teachers. Improved attitudes toward school activities were also noted.

For Further Information Contact:

Assistant Director
Bureau of Educational and
Vocational Guidance
110 Livingston Street
Brooklyn, N. Y. 11201

Telephone: (212) 596-6986

Location: Rochester City School District, 13 Fitzhugh Street South,
Title of Local Project: "Project Beacon" Rochester, N.Y. 14608
Grade Levels Involved: 1, 2, 3
Total No. of Students Involved: 2,315
Total Cost of Project: $72,024
Cost Per Student: $31.10

Note: Five elementary schools in the Rochester City School District have been designated Beacon Schools which attempt to enrich, supplement, and develop curriculum materials for culturally disadvantaged inner-city school pupils. Project ABLE funds are used to help support extra school district efforts in this total school attempt to meet the needs of disadvantaged children.

Major Emphases of Local Project Activities:

1. The development of positive self-concepts among early elementary school pupils. All activities and materials developed are used to enhance the ego development of disadvantaged pupils.

2. Early and continuous successful experiences for pupils in the language arts.

3. Involvement of parents in a school-home cooperative attempt to increase learning.

4. Cultural enrichment of the life experience of the child.

5. Inservice education to teachers.

6. Building an awareness of Negro history and culture.

Observable Results:

1. Reading achievement was satisfactory for two-thirds of the pupils involved in the project. Subjective teacher ratings of unsatisfactory were less than 10 percent.

2. Arithmetic achievement was not as satisfactory as reading achievement. Teacher ratings reflect lack of achievement in arithmetic.

3. Improved and more extensive home school communication.

4. Improved attendance and appearance of students.

5. Materials and techniques developed by Project ABLE funds in the Rochester City School District have received statewide attention and interest.

For Further Information Contact:

Director, Project Beacon
555 Plymouth Avenue North
Rochester, N. Y. 14608

Telephone: (716) 454-7080

Location: Rome Public Schools, 108 East Garden Street, Rome, N.Y. 13440
Title of Local Project: "Project ABLE"
Grade Levels Involved: K, 1, 2
Total No. of Students Involved: 130
Total Cost of Project: $51,628
Cost Per Student: $397.14

Note: Two elementary schools in the Rome City School District have been designated as Project ABLE schools. Both schools have enrollments of children from low socioeconomic areas.

Major Emphases of Local Project Activities:

1. The development of a relevant curriculum which attempts to build a positive self-image.

2. Speech and language development activities for pupils.

3. Provision of pupil services, elementary guidance, school social work, and psychological services to facilitate teacher understanding of pupil difficulties and to facilitate home-school communication.

4. Extensive field trips to nearby community, cultural, and historical places of interest.

5. Audiovisual resources form an integral part of the educational program.

Observable Results:

1. Attendance and punctuality of project pupils rated very good.

2. Improved confidence and independence on the part of pupils when approaching school work.

3. Improved behavior of pupils.

4. Improved appearance of pupils.

5. Markedly improved parent-school cooperation.

For Further Information Contact:

Head Counselor
Rome Public Schools
108 East Garden Street
Rome, N. Y. 13440

Telephone: (315) 337-7700

Location: Schenectady City School District, 108 Union St., Schenectady, N.Y. 12305
Title of Local Project: "Project ABLE"
Grade Levels Involved: K through 6
Total No. of Students Involved: 849
Total Cost of Project: $50,000
Cost Per Student: $54.53

Note: Two elementary schools serving largely urban disadvantaged populations have been designated Project ABLE schools.

Major Emphases of Local Project Activities:

1. Intensified efforts at the elementary level to provide for an effective reading program. Planned experiences for developing motor skills, visual, and sensory perception are provided as part of the total program of instruction.

2. Individual and small group instruction in basic skills.

3. Inservice sensitivity training for teachers in order to increase their understanding of the disadvantaged pupil.

4. Utilization of teacher aides from the immediate school neighborhood.

5. Planned parent participation in an evening film program related to current educational concerns.

Observable Results:

1. Achievement testing indicates approximately equal achievement in reading when comparing disadvantaged project pupils to other pupils within the school system.

2. The effectiveness of teacher-aides who live in the immediate local school community exceeded all expectations of project staff.

3. Film programs have been successful in increasing parental interest in school affairs.

4. The use of case conferences have been noted to be most helpful in focusing attention upon individual students. A wide range of possible alternatives can be efficiently explored.

For Further Information Contact:

Director of Curriculum
Coordination and Development
Schenectady Public Schools
108 Union Street
Schenectady, N.Y. 12305

Telephone: (518) 377-8001

Location: Seaford, U.F.S.D. #6, 2174 Jackson Ave., Seaford, N.Y. 11783
Title of Local Project: "Project ABLE"
Grade Levels Involved: 7, 8, 9
Total No. of Students Involved: 45
Total Cost of Project: $11,565.95
Cost Per Student: $257

Note: Project ABLE at Seaford Junior High School is designed to help pupils who have a history of underachievement in the elementary school but who have at least average potential academic ability. The project for 7th, 8th, and 9th grade pupils emphasizes:

Major Emphases of Local Project Activities:

1. Small group instruction and individual attention facilitated by small class size (maximum 20).

2. Developmental reading program for all project pupils.

3. Regularly scheduled group guidance for all project pupils.

4. Inservice education of project teachers.

5. Extensive use of the team approach to mutual problems made possible by frequent regularly scheduled case conferences (45 case conferences per year).

Observable Results:

1. Attendance of Project ABLE pupils higher than average daily attendance of nonproject pupils (96.75 percent vs. 94.54 percent).

2. Median grades of selected underachievers, for Project ABLE, were in the middle 80's. The grading policy in no way permitted raising the grades of project pupils artificially.

3. Very strong parental support of project activities.

4. The success of Project ABLE at the junior high school level encouraged the creation of an ungraded elementary school project for underachieving students.

5. Based on an average expected learning gain of 6 months of achievement per school year, 16 pupils exceeded this expectation in reading and 12 exceeded expectations in arithmetic, as measured by the Stanford Achievement Test.

For Further Information Contact:

Guidance Counselor
Seaford Junior High School
Seaford, N. Y. 11783

Telephone: (516) 221-0700

Location: Sherburne-Earlville Central School, Sherburne, N.Y. 13460
Title of Local Project: "Project DEW"
Grade Levels Involved: 9, 10, 11, 12
Total No. of Students Involved: 69
Total Cost of Project: $11,586
Cost Per Student: $167.91

Major Emphases of Local Project Activities:

1. Field trips of an educational, social, and cultural nature for the purpose of expanding the pupil's concepts of the world around him.

2. Group counseling and discussion for the purpose of having culturally disadvantaged pupils consider such topics as interpersonal relations, values, and goals.

3. University based consultants work with students on topics selected by students.

Observable Results:

1. Discussion meetings led by university consultants around student selected topics had high student interest.

2. The English and social studies departments have revised some of their curriculum materials in light of observed student interest and enthusiasm.

3. Parental participation and interest in project activities were minimal. One possible reason advanced for this was that rural parents of low socioeconomic status have little interest in project activities.

For Further Information Contact:

Project ABLE Coordinator
Guidance Office
Sherburne-Earlville Central School
Sherburne, N.Y. 13460

Telephone: (607) 674-4121

Location: South New Berlin Central School, South New Berlin, N.Y. 13843
Title of Local Project: "Project ABLE"
Grade Levels Involved: K through 12
Total No. of Students Involved: 466
Total Cost of Project: $19,572
Cost Per Student: $41.73

Major Emphases of Local Project Activities:

1. Reduction in class size by expansion of the teaching staff.

2. Field trips to places of cultural, social, and historical importance.

3. Film program for pupils during the regular school day.

4. Remedial reading services.

5. Occupational guidance and field trips to various factories and places of business in the community.

Observable Results:

1. Increased use of school library services.

2. Need for full-time elementary and secondary school counselors is being recognized.

3. Parent attendance and cooperation increasing as evidenced by volunteer chaperones for trips and better attendance at the school-community organization.

4. Increased use of Board of Cooperative Educational Services.

For Further Information Contact:

Guidance Counselor
South New Berlin Central School
South New Berlin, N.Y. 13843

Telephone: (617) 859-2221

Location: Three Village Central School District #1, Setauket, N.Y. 11785
Title of Local Project: "Project Forward Direction"
Grade Levels Involved: K, 1
Total No. of Students Involved: 75
Total Cost of Project: $71,423
Cost Per Student: $952.30

Major Emphases of Local Project Activities:

1. The establishment of limited size "Transitional Classes" for pupils who, after kindergarten, do not appear to be ready for a formal 1st grade situation. Such pupils may take up to 3 years to prepare for entry into a regular classroom.

2. Perceptual-motor techniques, a structured developmental reading program, and teacher-prepared reading material are utilized.

3. Intensive home-school communication regarding the pupil's progress, achievement, and background is facilitated through the efforts of the school social worker.

Observable Results:

1. Very favorable parental reaction to "Transitional Classes" which removes the stigma of failure and provides an extended school experience for pupils who are not yet mature enough for formal classroom work.

2. Comparisons between the project, pupils, and the control groups indicate that a modified school experience for immature pupils reduces significantly the number of children who are later recommended for retention in grade.

3. Many of the experimental Project ABLE materials are now being used by regular school staff.

4. The wealth of local information on the patterns and effects of physical and perceptual immaturity has encouraged the district administrators to make the information available to parents before they register their children for kindergarten.

For Further Information Contact:

Assistant District Principal
Three Village Central School
District #1
Setauket, N. Y. 11733

Telephone: (516) 751-5000

Location: Windsor Central School, Windsor, N. Y. 13865
Title of Local Project: "Project Inform"
Grade Levels Involved: 7, 8, 9
Total No. of Students Involved: 50
Total Cost of Project: $11,306.20
Cost Per Student: $226.12

Major Emphases of Local Project Activities:

1. Team approach to meeting the educational needs of selected underachieving disadvantaged pupils.

2. Extensive provision for individual and group counseling services.

3. School-sponsored sociocultural project activities for selected pupils who otherwise would not normally have the opportunity to participate in such activities.

4. Participation of parents in selected case conferences and in pupil sociocultural activities when appropriate.

Observable Results:

1. Increased positive parental participation in project activities as the result of home visitations by project staff, open door visitation policies for school-related project activities, and general parent meetings.

2. Increased academic performance of pupils as indicated by preliminary achievement testing efforts.

3. Increased instructional sensitivity to needs of the disadvantaged student.

4. Improved interpersonal behavior of pupils observed.

For Further Information Contact:

Director of Special Programs
Windsor Central School
Windsor, N. Y. 13865

Telephone: (607) 655-1501